



BLACK BOLT™

#6



MARVEL

**SALADIN AHMED
CHRISTIAN WARD**



is the king of the Inhumans, an off-splinter of humanity imbued with amazing abilities. But these gifts sometimes come with a price: Black Bolt's slightest whisper can shatter mountains. His voice has destroyed many lives, but it has saved countless others.

When the Silent King speaks, the world hears him.

But now no one can hear him. Facing imprisonment, his treacherous brother, Maximus the Mad, used his psychic powers and image-altering technology to send Black Bolt in his place. Trapped in a strange alien prison, Black Bolt finds himself at the mercy of the Jailer, who feeds on the inmates' powers, killing and resurrecting them for his own amusement.

Black Bolt and his fellow prisoners—Metal Master, the Absorbing Man, Raava and Blinky—staged a breakout but could not defeat the Jailer. Black Bolt's teleporting dog Lockjaw sniffed out his master's trail and rescued him just in time.

But Black Bolt could not leave his new companions behind. He broke them out of their cells for a final assault, and they discovered hidden footage revealing the Jailer's origin: The psychic vampire was once a prisoner himself.

They go now to find the Jailer's true form. But their mad tormentor has one last trick up his sleeve: He has resurrected the dead.

Writer
SALADIN AHMED

Artist & Cover Art
CHRISTIAN WARD

Letterer
VC's CLAYTON COWLES

Design
NICHOLAS RUSSELL

Logo Design
JAY BOWEN

Associate Editor
SARAH BRUNSTAD

Editor
WIL MOSS

Executive Editor
TOM BREVOORT

Editor in Chief
AXEL ALONSO

Chief Creative Officer
JOE QUESADA

President
DAN BUCKLEY

Executive Producer
ALAN FINE

BLACK BOLT created by
STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

HE IS BLACK BOLT, ONCE A KING,
NOW A PRISONER. HE AND HIS FELLOW
INMATES ARE ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE.

THE DEAD ARE TRYING
TO KILL THEM.

MERYN?
BELOVED?

MA?

BLACK BOLT'S PARENTS, KILLED ACCIDENTALLY
BY HIS TERRIBLE VOICE, STARE AT HIM ACCUSINGLY.
IT TAKES EVERYTHING HE HAS NOT TO SCREAM.



SOME PART OF BLACK BOLT KNOWS THIS CANNOT BE REAL.



BUT HIS SHAME IS REAL. HIS DOUBT IS REAL.



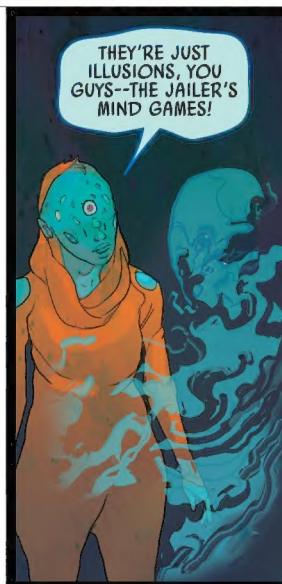
AND THE THINGS THAT WEAR HIS PARENTS' FACES FEED ON THESE.



YGYZYS? BROTHER? YOU...YOU'RE DEAD.



NO! YOU'RE NOT HERE. YOU'RE NOT REAL!



THEY'RE JUST ILLUSIONS, YOU GUYS--THE JAILER'S MIND GAMES!



YOU'VE GOT TO TRY TO STOP SEEING THEM!



THE CHILD'S VOICE CUTS THROUGH BLACK BOLT'S DOUBT LIKE A RAY OF LIGHT. HE IS NEEDED.



NONE KNOW FALSE SHAPES BETTER THAN THE SKRULLS. YOU ARE NOT RAAVA'S CHILDREN!



AND YOU AIN'T MY MA!





SHUNK





MOLYB!
RAAVA, YOU KILLED
HIM!

PERHAPS.
MOLYB'S PEOPLE
HAVE FOUR LUNGS AND
TWO HEARTS. HIS BLOOD
CONGEALS QUICKLY.
HE MAY YET
LIVE.

HOLY
CRAP, RAAVA.
YOU DIDN'T
HAVE TO--



WHAT WOULD YOU FOOLS
HAVE OF RAAVA? THE
OLD MAN WAS MAD
WITH FEAR.



HE WOULD
HAVE KILLED
CREEL. HE WOULD
HAVE DOOMED
US.



WE CAN'T
DO ANYTHING
ABOUT IT NOW,
WISHBONE.
LET'S GO.



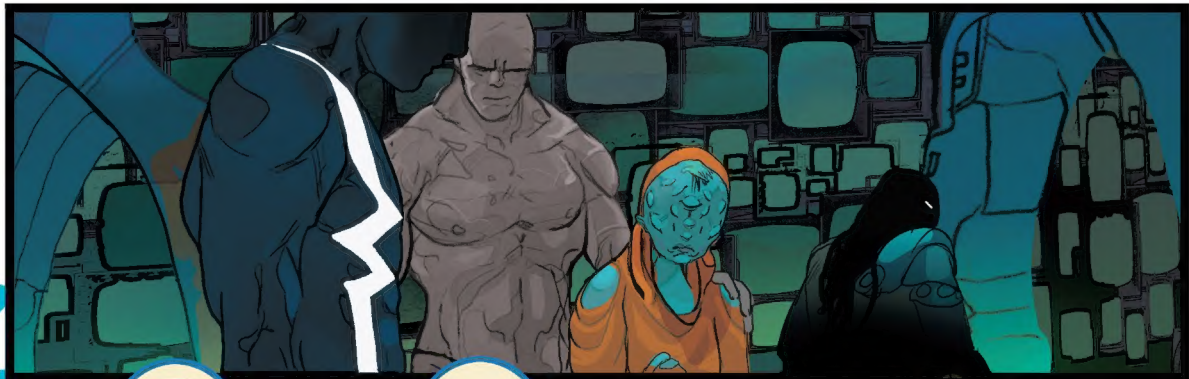
YOU HANG
IN THERE, OLD MAN.
WE'LL GET THAT BASTARD
FOR YOU. YOU'LL MAKE
IT OUT OF HERE
YET.



HE TRIED
TO KILL YOU,
CREEL.



NAH. THAT
WASN'T HIM. THAT
WAS THIS PLACE. METAL
MASTER WAS IN HERE
LONGER THAN THE REST
OF US PUT TOGETHER.
HE DID AS GOOD
AS HE COULD.

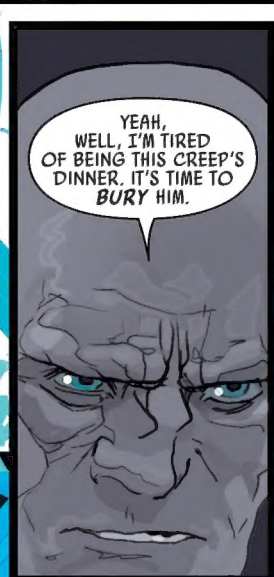


WHOA!
YOU GUYS, THE
JAILER--HE'S TRYING
TO BATTER THROUGH
THE SHIELD THAT BLACK
BOLT PUT UP
AROUND US!

I CAN FEEL
ITS PSYCHIC
POWER BURNING
MY FACE, LIKE
STANDING NEAR
A COOKFIRE.



IT'S
COMING
FROM DOWN
THERE.



YEAH,
WELL, I'M TIRED
OF BEING THIS CREEP'S
DINNER. IT'S TIME TO
BURY HIM.

THEY WALK ON. THE SOUND OF
THE OLD MAN SCREAMING
ECHOES IN BLACK BOLT'S HEAD.



AND THEN...

BLACK
BOLT? WHAT
IS IT? WHY'D
YOU STOP?



BY THE
LADY. THE
STARS!



THE STARS.
RAAVA'S HUNDRED
BILLION FRIENDS. HOW MANY
TIMES HAS RAAVA SAILED AMONG
THEM? HOW MANY YEARS HAS
SHE BEEN LOCKED AWAY
FROM THEM?



SHAME
MOLYB CAN'T
SEE THEM.

AYE,
CHILD. IT IS
A SHAME.

MINUTES LATER.

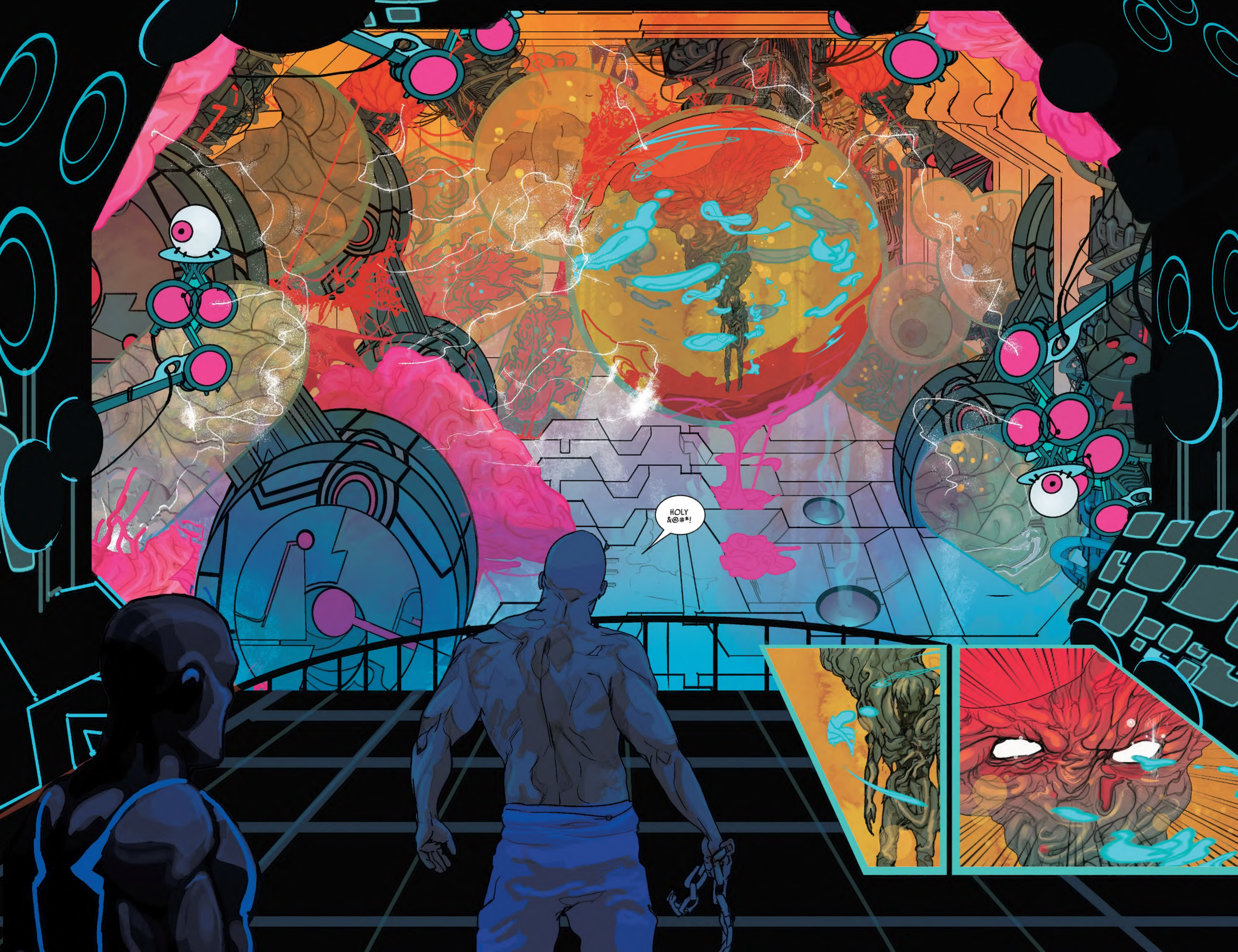


THE
TILT OF THE
FLOOR. THE SMELL
OF THE AIR. WE NEAR
THE HEART OF THIS
PLACE.

SHE'S
RIGHT. HE'S
CLOSE. VERY
CLOSE. I'M
SCARED.



YEAH, EVEN
I CAN SENSE
THAT FREAK NOW.
HE'S GOTTA
BE--



HOLY
&@#*!





*PENANCE! PENANCE IN DEATH
FOR YOUR CRIMES AND VIOLATIONS!*

THE VOICE FILLS BLACK BOLT WITH FEAR, AND HE KNOWS HE IS NOT THE ONLY ONE. BUT HIS ELECTRON FIELD PROTECTS HIM. AND HE HAS ALLIES HERE.

HE HAS FRIENDS.

IT IS TIME TO END THIS.

ONCE THE JAILER WAS A MAN OF BLACK BOLT'S OWN PEOPLE. BUT HOW MANY CENTURIES HAS IT BEEN HERE, LIVING TO INFLICT PUNISHMENT? HOW MANY BODIES AND MINDS HAS IT EATEN?



A WORD FROM BLACK
BOLT WILL BRING THIS
ALL CRASHING DOWN.

BUT...

WHERE IS THIS
THING'S DISEASED
HEART? FOR RAAVA
WOULD RIP IT
OUT!

YOU SICK
BASTARD, I'M
GONNA--

REPENT YOUR
CRIMES!

CRUSHER,
WAIT!

OOF!

DESPITE THE CHAOS AROUND HIM
AND THE TERROR WITHIN, BLACK BOLT
QUIETS HIS MIND.

HE MUSTERS
HIS POWER...

...AND SHIFTS
THE ELECTRONS
OF THE JAILER'S
ENERGY MUZZLE.

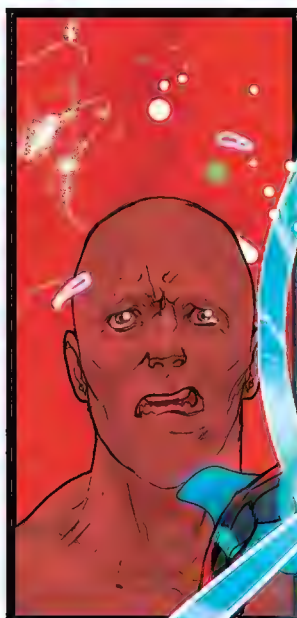
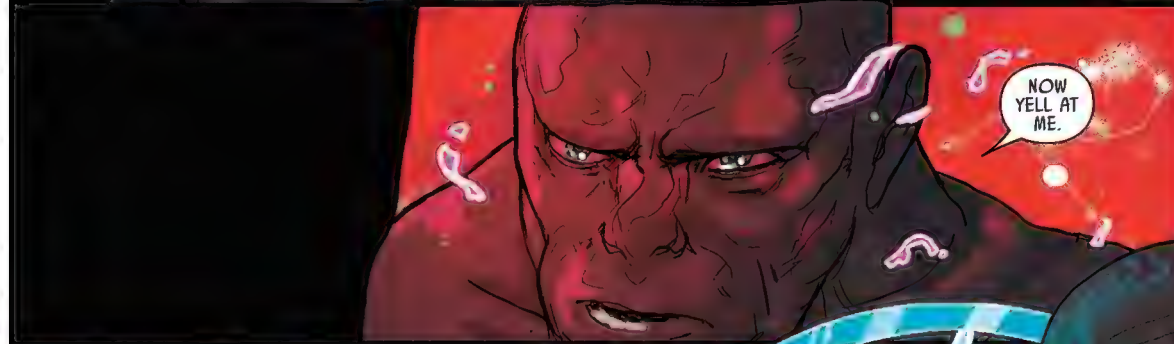
AND THE MIDNIGHT
KING SPEAKS.

NO
MORE.

HE HAS SHATTERED MOUNTAINS WITH A WORD.
HE HAS HEARD MEN SAY THAT HIS SHOUT CAN
CRACK A PLANET, AND BLACK BOLT THINKS
IT MIGHT BE TRUE. AND YET...

SUCH
POWER!
WHY WON'T
THIS THING
DIE?

THE SHIELD!
IT WON'T DROP
ITS SHIELD UNLESS
IT HAS A MIND TO
FEED ON!





IT BURSTS!



BLACK BOLT WAKES ON A PRISON FLOOR FAR FROM HOME. BUT HE WAKES BENEATH THE STARS.

HE WAKES FREE.

YOU LIVE, THEN, INHUMAN! IT SEEMS I AM NOT THE ONLY ONE TO CHEAT DEATH THIS DAY.

THERE IS ATMOSPHERE HERE. THERE SHOULD NOT BE. BUT RAAVA IS DONE COUNTING THE STRANGENESSES OF THIS PLACE. SHE WISHES ONLY TO LEAVE IT.

MOLYB INSISTED YOU WOULD SURVIVE, SKINNY ONE. RAAVA HAD HER DOUBTS. SHE IS PLEASED, THOUGH, PLEASED THAT BOTH OF YOU LIVE.

THE PEOPLE OF MY WORLD ARE RESILIENT. AND YOU'VE ALREADY SEEN HOW REMARKABLE OUR QUIET FRIEND HERE IS.

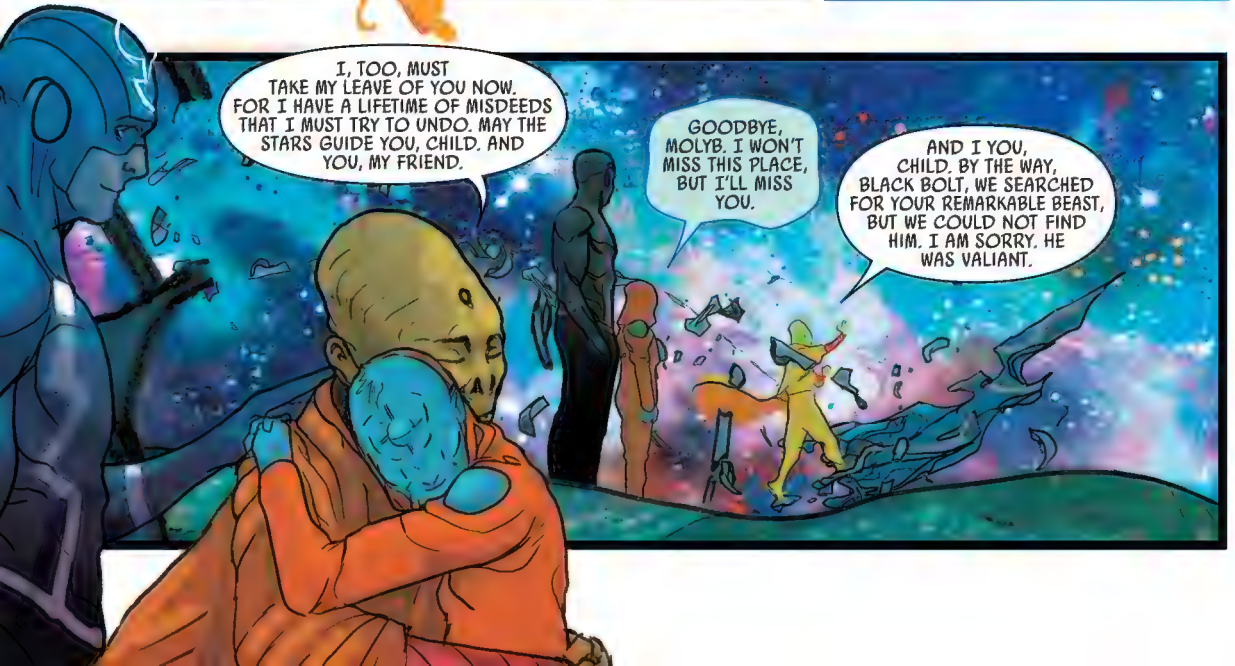
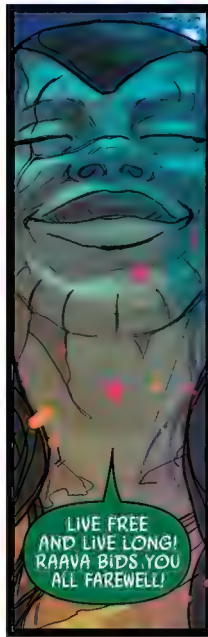
BLACK BOLT? C-CRUSHER?

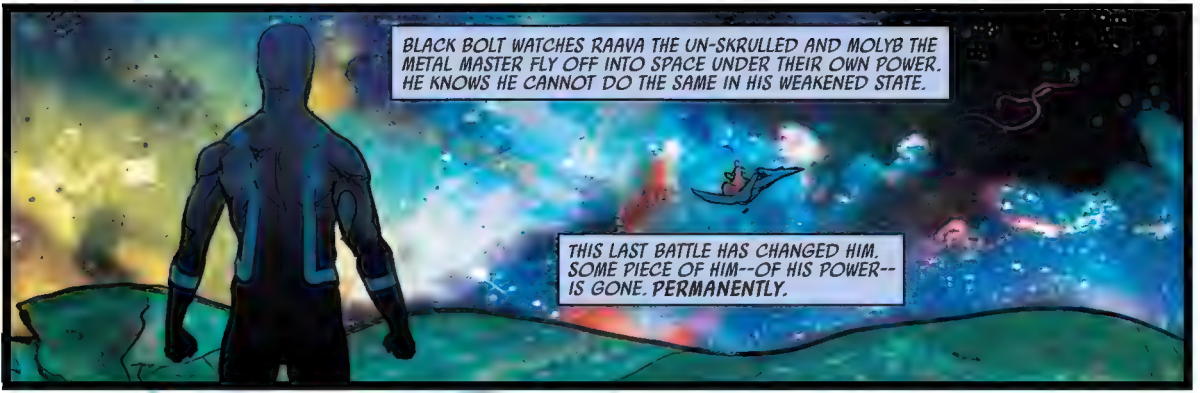
THE JAILER... HE'S GONE! THAT SKY... WE--WE'RE FREE, AREN'T WE?

AND MOLYB! YOU'RE ALIVE!

AYE, CHILD. THOUGH I HARDLY DESERVE TO BE.

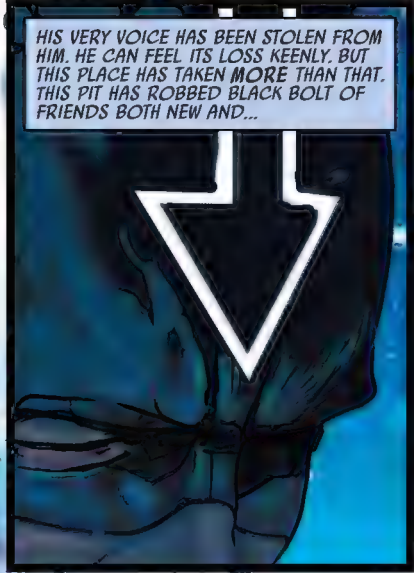
AND WE HAVE LOST ONE WHO DESERVED HIS LIFE MORE.





BLACK BOLT WATCHES RAAVA THE UN-SKRULLED AND MOLYB THE METAL MASTER FLY OFF INTO SPACE UNDER THEIR OWN POWER. HE KNOWS HE CANNOT DO THE SAME IN HIS WEAKENED STATE.

THIS LAST BATTLE HAS CHANGED HIM. SOME PIECE OF HIM--OF HIS POWER--IS GONE. PERMANENTLY.



HIS VERY VOICE HAS BEEN STOLEN FROM HIM. HE CAN FEEL ITS LOSS KEENLY. BUT THIS PLACE HAS TAKEN MORE THAN THAT. THIS PIT HAS ROBBED BLACK BOLT OF FRIENDS BOTH NEW AND...



WOOF



...OLD?



LOCKJAW!
YOU'RE
OKAY!





WELL, I
GUESS YOU TWO
WILL BE GOING BACK
TO YOUR PEOPLE
NOW. YOUR
FAMILY.



THAT MUST BE
SO GREAT. I DON'T
HAVE ANYONE. EVEN IF
I FOUND A WAY BACK
TO THE 600 BAZAARS,
LONDAL THE RICH WOULD
JUST HAVE ME PLAYED
IN THE GREAT
SQUARE.



HEY, MAYBE
I COULD GO TO
EARTH WITH YOU! IF YOU'RE
GOING TO MEET CRUSHER'S WIFE,
I'D LIKE TO COME. I MEAN...
IF THAT'S OKAY. IF YOU
DON'T MIND ADOPTING
A CRIMINAL.



AS SOON AS THE CHILD SPEAKS,
BLACK BOLT'S MIND FILLS WITH
REASONS THAT IT CANNOT BE.

HE HAS BROUGHT ONLY PAIN TO HIS
OWN CHILD'S LIFE. WHEREVER HE WALKS,
DESTRUCTION AND DEATH FOLLOW.

BUT AS HE LOOKS AT THE RUIN OF THIS PRISON HIS PEOPLE MADE,
AND AT THIS CHILD WHO WAS NEARLY DESTROYED BY IT...



...BLACK BOLT KNOWS
THAT IT MUST BE.

A full-page comic book illustration. In the upper left, a man in a blue and white suit with a large 'X' on his back and a woman in a dark suit stand on a small, green, rocky island floating in space. The man is looking out over a vast, colorful cosmic landscape filled with swirling nebulae in shades of blue, purple, and pink, and numerous stars. Several pieces of broken stone architecture, including columns and a sphere, are scattered around the island and in the surrounding space. In the bottom right corner, the words 'THE END.' are written in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

BLACK BOLT HAS BEEN A KING.
HE HAS BEEN A KILLER AND A PRISONER.
HE KNOWS HE HAS MUCH TO ANSWER FOR.

AND IF HE CANNOT
ANSWER WITH WORDS,
HE WILL ANSWER WITH
LOVE.

THE END.



SOUND OFF!



We want to hear from you! Send your emails to mheroes@marvel.com and please mark them "OKAY TO PRINT."

Greetings, Boltagons!

What a roller-coaster first arc! We told you we'd break your hearts, and there you have it. Absorbing Man, the villain redeemed, is no more. But what better way to go out than proving his heroism and saving newfound friends?

So what's next for the Midnight King? Earth awaits—but he may not find the happy reunion he's looking for. Stay tuned for issue #7, when guest artist Frazer Irving takes us on the first stage of the journey home!

And speaking of guests, we had a very special appearance in the Marvel offices recently! Serinda Swan and Anson Mount, who play Medusa and Black Bolt on the new INHUMANS TV show, stopped by to chat comics with your starstruck editors just before the IMAX debut of the first two episodes!



The show is now airing on ABC, make sure to check it out!

And for all you die-hard Christian Ward fans, never fear. Christian will return in December's issue #8 for a brand-new arc! Plus, he took time to answer a few of your letters this month. Keep writing in!

Thank you, Saladin and Christian,

I am four issues in, and I've thoroughly enjoyed the unexpected journey you have decided to take Black Bolt on. Being an avid fan of BB and the Inhumans from the Kirby days, it has been a long time coming to actually get to hear BB's voice rather than just thoughts or the voice that others have given him. It's long overdue to learn more about this character, and I'm consumed by each new issue.

After these first several issues, I'm reminded of many of the sci-fi stories I regularly read in HEAVY METAL magazine, so it has been a nice time capsule back to my childhood in that respect also. In fact, being the metal head that I am, I can't help but notice many details that scream rock 'n roll—from the lettering of the comic title, to the homage that Christian paid to Thin Lizzy album cover artist Jim Fitzpatrick for the cover of issue #3.

I'm excited to see what the future holds for BB, and I'm ultra confident that it's in the right hands to pull it off successfully. Until Medusa decides to shave her head, Make Mine Marvel.

Jeff Gallagher,
Temecula, CA

CHRISTIAN: Thanks so much, Jeff! Huge fan of the sort of psychedelic Euro sci-fi you find in *Heavy Metal*, and I'm thrilled you're enjoying it!

Hey Christian & Saladin,

Issue #4 was one of my favorite issues of any comic this year—we probably learned more about Crusher Creel's background in these pages than the whole of his 52-year existence since JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #114 in 1965.

That an often one-dimensional character, a long way from redemption, really seems to have acquired hidden emotional depths that elicited empathy from me is a mark of fine writing. I normally cheer Creel's downfall, but find myself hoping he survives this time.

The art and colors show Christian at the top of his game, with the fantastic Loki horns stretching over a beautiful 9-panel page a particularly striking highlight. Lockjaw's gobsmacking arrival, just in the nick of time, with dribbling spittle so visceral I'm sure I could smell his dog breath.

Bruce Marsh
Newbury Park
England

CHRISTIAN: Fun Fact: I based Lockjaw on our pug, Thor, and I can also confirm his breath stinks. (Thor likes cat poo WAY more than he should!)



Hi Saladin & Christian,

The Black Bolt saga is fantastic. I love the atmospheric art, and the story line with script is truly engaging. These are the best lines ever (from issue #4):

Crusher Creel: You don't drive, do you?

BB: We have...flying vehicles.

CC: Must be nice. Whaddaya do if yer flying vehicle is in the shop?

BB: I often travel with my teleporting dog.

CC: You know what? Forget I asked.

I literally (not just figuratively) laughed out loud. I can't remember when a comic last caused me to laugh so.

Also, for the first time ever, I found myself having a bit of empathy for Crusher Creel. That takes some doing.

Keep up the good work,
Randall Barlow in England

CHRISTIAN: For all of the big moments in BLACK BOLT thus far, I have to say this scene was the most fun to draw!

That's all the space we've got this month, but if you're jonesing for Inhumans, don't miss ONCE AND FUTURE KINGS, where Christopher Priest and Phil Noto are telling the story of Black Bolt, Medusa and Maximus' early days. 'Til next time!

-Sarah

NEXT:
BLACK BOLT
#7



FOR MORE
INHUMANS,
CHECK OUT:



SECRET WARRIORS #7



**INHUMANS: ONCE AND FUTURE
KINGS #4**

ROYALS #10



• Tour •
THE SEVEN SEAS

With

**BLACK MANTA
EMPIRE**



Call 555-FISH